

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

Claim 1 (original): A visual speech system, wherein the visual speech system comprises:
a data import system for receiving text data that includes word strings and emoticon strings; and
a text-to-animation system for generating a displayable animated face image that can reproduce facial movements corresponding to the received word strings and the received emoticon strings.

Claim 2 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 1, further comprising a keyboard for typing in text data.

Claim 3 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 1, further comprising a text-to-audio system that can generate an audio speech broadcast corresponding the received word strings.

Claim 4 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 3, further comprising an audio-visual interface for displaying the displayable animated face image along with the audio speech broadcast.

Claim 5 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 1, wherein the text-to-animation system associates each emoticon string with an expressed emotion, and wherein the expressed emotion is reproduced on the animated face image with at least one facial movement.

Claim 6 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 5, wherein the text-to-animation system associates each word string with a spoken word, and wherein the spoken word is reproduced on the animated face image with at least one mouth movement.

Claim 7 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 6, wherein the at least one facial movement is morphed with the at least one mouth movement.

Claim 8 (original): The visual speech system of Claim 1, further comprising an input/output system for receiving and sending text data over a network.

Claim 9 (original): A program product stored on a recordable medium, which when executed provides a visual speech system, comprising:

- a data import system for receiving text data that includes word strings and emoticon strings; and
- a text-to-animation system for generating a displayable animated face image that can reproduce facial movements corresponding to the received word strings and the received emoticon strings.

Claim 10 (original): The program product of Claim 9, wherein an inputted emoticon string is reproduced on the animated face image as an expressed emotion.

Claim 11 (original): The program product of Claim 10, wherein an inputted word string is reproduced on the animated face image by mouth movements.

Claim 12 (original): The program product of Claim 11, wherein the expressed emotion is morphed with the mouth movements.

Claim 13 (original): An online chat system having visual speech capabilities, comprising:

- a first networked client having:
 - a first data import system for receiving text data that includes word strings and emoticon strings; and
 - a data export system for sending the text data to a network; and
- a second networked client having:
 - a second data import system for receiving the text data from the network;

and

- a text-to-animation system for generating a displayable animated face image that reproduces facial movements corresponding to the received word strings and the received emoticon strings contained in the text data.

Claim 14 (original): The online chat system of Claim 13, wherein each emoticon string is reproduced on the animated face image as an expressed emotion.

Claim 15 (original): The online chat system of Claim 14, wherein each word string is reproduced on the animated face image by mouth movements.

Claim 16 (original): The online chat system of Claim 15, wherein the expressed emotion is morphed with the mouth movements.

Claim 17 (original): A method of performing visual speech on a system having a displayable animated face image, comprising the steps of:

- entering text data into a keyboard, wherein the text data includes word strings and emoticon strings;
- converting the word strings to audio speech;
- converting the word strings to mouth movements on the displayable animated face image, such that the mouth movements correspond with the audio speech;
- converting the emoticon strings to facial movements on the displayable animated face image, such that the facial movements correspond with expressed emotions associated with the entered emoticon strings; and
- displaying the animated face image along with a broadcast of the audio speech.

Claim 18 (original): The method of Claim 17, wherein the mouth movements and facial movements are morphed together.

Claim 19 (original): The method of Claim 17, wherein the displaying of the animated face image along with the broadcast of the audio speech is done remotely over a network.

Claim 20 (original): A visual speech system, comprising:

- a data import system for receiving text data that includes at least one emoticon string, wherein the at least one emoticon string is associated with a predetermined facial expression; and

a text-to-animation system for generating a displayable animated face image that can simulate at least one facial movement corresponding to the predetermined facial expression.